Risk Assessment – Raft Building

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Next Review Date	23/03/2025
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General Information	This risk assessment concerns improvised rafting using barrels, poles and ropes on beach side locations.

Instructor Competency	- To Lead - Land & Wave Statement of Competence, NWSMP Level 3 Award, or FSRT/PSRT award - Completion of Team Skills by instructor & manager as per activity cloud.

Ratios & Remits	1:12 maximum (on the water) Land & Wave typically operates from Swanage Beach, Sandbanks Beaches and Sandbanks harbour side. These locations have sheltered water when wind and wave factors are favourable. In the 'wrong' conditions these sites are not 'sheltered water' and activities would need to be cancelled or moved by the Day Manager. Sheltered Water where the paddlers are no more than 25 metres offshore and the wind strength on the water does not exceed Beaufort force 3 (consistant speed not the gusting speed), avoiding the group being swept/blown out of the safe working area. The raft can be floated in close proximity to the shore. A maximum distance away from the shore would generally be 20 metres, unless site specific rules extend this.

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	Any waves will be small (1-2ft) and the activity is carried out in depth by the instructor or a SUP is provided for safety support if beyond standing depth. If a teacher is providing support from a pastoral perspective on dry land it may be required to split the group and the instructor can have up to 12 participants on the water at any time. Site specific risk assessments may apply specific criteria to a site.

Identified Hazards	Who is at risk?	Example Causes	Control Measures
Drowning & Being Blown Offshore	Instructors & All Participants/Group Leaders	- Taking part without a buoyancy aid or the swimming ability to cope. - Being blown out to sea in sea conditions beyond personal ability. - Falling from the raft, hitting your head and lying face down in the water. - Being trapped under a raft which falls apart. - Flipping of the raft while on the water.	- Day manager and instructor to check sea and environmental conditions prior to the activity. Lead instructor on the water to dynamically assess conditions and end the session if required. - Effective safety briefing, as per SOP. - Recognising water confidence early in the session is required. As a minimum, the ability to swim whilst wearing personal flotation can mean being able to remain upright, turned away from the weather and make forward progress. - Correctly fitting buoyancy aids to be worn at all times and checked at the beginning of session by an instructor and on-goingly monitored. - instructors to understand and be familiar with our operational procedures in relation to wind speed and the specific dangers of

			offshore winds. - EAP's to be developed which clearly identifies how to deal with off-shore winds and not being able to return to shore, for a specific reason. - Instructors to keep group within line of sight and regularly scan the water for participants in danger. - Instructors to brief the group with what to do in case the raft flips during the session. - Instructors to hold a first aid qualification which focuses on what to do in the event of a suspected drowning. - A mobile phone is available to contact the emergency services. - A time off the water is provided to the day manager and checked in. - If the wind direction is offshore the Instructor is to keep the group close to shore while checking the groups ability, and if the group is less able the instructor is to keep the group close to shore and well within the wind shadow area. - instructors to use a tether on each raft if needed
Personal Injury E.g. Slips, Cuts, Head Injuries, strained backs	Instructors & All Participants/Group Leaders	- Being hit in the face with a paddle. - Water confidence games which bring people into	- Instructor to provide health and safety briefing(s) to prevent injuries, including manual handling. See SOP for full details of operational procedures.

		close contact with others. - Lifting and carrying rafts, without advice and guidance could lead to back injuries - Raft hitting their head during capsize. - Lack of briefing and instruction which do not allow participants to develop skills in a controlled environment. - Impact with members of the public on beaches - I.e. leaving boats and paddles in walkways. - Lack of footwear leading to foot cuts and stings.	- Helmets to be worn. - Instructor to on-goingly monitor and instruct the session to proactively prevent people from coming to harm. For example, this may include choosing a specific environment to play a specific game. - Instructor to hold first aid qualification and have a first aid kit in close proximity. - Footwear such as wetsuit boots are advised. Cuts to feet and weaver fish stings are a possibility. - Do not leave equipment in public places which present a trip and slip hazard. - Instructor to teach participants to carry rafts using effective manual handling techniques. - We advise wearing footwear. - Advise not to put arms and legs under ropes and warn people of moving raft parts and the risk of entrapment.
Difficulty controlling body temperature	Instructors & All Participants/Group Leaders	- Boating during the colder, winter months. - Lacking personal protective equipment. - Poor preparation from participants - I.e. missing breakfast.	- Wetsuits are recommended. During very warm summer months participants may prefer not to use a wetsuit. In this case, careful monitoring of body temperature is required. - Appropriate group safety equipment to be carried. The SOP provides further detail.

			The exact equipment must be based on a sound consideration of the journey, environment and participants. - Use of 5mm wetsuits or drysuits during the months with colder sea temperatures is recommended.

This risk assessment in no way negates the need for continual dynamic risk assessment on session.

You must report incidents or near misses using company procedures.

If you have any concerns or questions about the risk assessment speak to your manager.

Emergency Action Plan

Remember;
Self – Team – Casualty – Equipment

1. Make sure you are safe
2. Make sure the group are safe
3. Make sure the individual(s) concerned are safe
4. Rescue the individual(s)
5. Call/send for assistance (as required)
6. Remove all to a safe place

a. Where possible move the casualty and group up an exit route via the safest route to a safe place or vehicle.
b. Water Based rescue. If the casualty is unable to exit, call
for a rescue. When the services arrive, follow their direction.
c. Land Based rescue. If the casualty cannot move, make them safe and await rescue services help. Wherepossible, move the group away from the venue to a safe place to allow
an unhindered rescue to take place. If the assistant knows the exit,

they may lead the group out at the lead instructor's discretion and make the group safe.
7. Diagnose the extent of the injury and effect first aid in line with your training.
8. Take further action as appropriate.
9. Inform Day Manager, ensuring all appropriate documentation is completed at the earliest possible opportunity.

If required, call the emergency services on 999. If no signal exists, move to a new location, perhaps on higher ground. Ensure you have discussed your plans with your colleague and also the additional risk you are being exposed to yourself.

Instructors are to have knowledge of the nearest hospital (A&E or small injuries unit to where they are operating).